

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	N-myc (MYCN)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that targeting MYCN in preneoplastic cells (PNCs) could help prevent medulloblastoma. In a mouse model of medulloblastoma, undifferentiated neuron precursor cells turned into tumor-forming PNCs in the cerebellum. Overexpression of the medulloblastoma-associated oncogene <i>Mycn</i> in PNCs increased tumor formation and growth compared with what was seen in controls. Further studies will be necessary to identify additional targets in PNCs that may guide the development of medulloblastoma therapies.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.174 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Kessler, J. <i>et al. Genes Dev.</i>; published online Jan. 15, 2009; doi:10.1101/gad.1759909 Contact: Robert J. Wechsler-Reya, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C. e-mail: rw.reya@duke.edu</p>